



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

Date: 1/23/2009

GAIN Report Number: AS9001

Australia

Agricultural Situation

Australian Government Announces Food Production Grants

2009

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Report Highlights:

The Australian Government is delivering on a key 2007 election commitment by investing A\$40 million to support the growth of innovative food and seafood industries by announcing three key funding programs to support these local industries.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Canberra [AS1]
[AS]

The Australian Government is delivering on a key 2007 election commitment by investing A\$40 million to support the growth of innovative food and seafood industries. In December 2008, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke, announced applications are open for three key funding programs to support these local industries.

The three programs are:

The Regional Food Producers Innovation and Productivity program is a four-year, A\$35 million program which aims to boost the productivity and competitiveness of Australia's food and seafood industries through innovation and technology improvements. A\$10 million of the A\$35 million will be set aside for the seafood industry. Under the program, matched-funding grants, generally between A\$50,000 and A\$2 million, are available for food and seafood businesses to undertake projects based around one or more of the following activities:

- the design and implementation of new technologies, production or processing techniques;
- the adoption of food production or processing technologies developed overseas;
- the innovative redesign of existing production/processing lines to improve efficiencies and productivity.

The Promoting Australian Produce program is a three-year, A\$5 million program that aims to assist Australian food industries develop their capacity to promote and market Australian produce more effectively to both domestic and export markets.

Under the program, matched-funding grants between \$50,000 and \$750,000 are available for food industry organizations to undertake projects based around one or more of the following activities:

- enhancing industry marketing and promotional capabilities;
- developing new strategies for industry marketing;
- gaining consumer insights;
- strengthening links with domestic and international markets.

The Promoting Australian Produce (Major Events) program aims to improve collaboration and cooperation in food and fiber industries. The program will do this by supporting major national events that bring together food and fiber industry participants to encourage information exchange across the production, manufacturing, marketing, and distribution chain. Promoting Australian Produce (Major Events) is a discretionary grants program, with A\$3 million available until June 30, 2009.

Under the program, grants are available to help stage major national events organized by food and fiber industries that aim, in whole or part, to:

- bring together food and fiber industry participants to encourage information exchange across the production, manufacturing, marketing and distribution chain;
- encourage the development and adoption of new technologies and systems that will improve productivity;
- encourage industry-wide and/or through-chain collaboration to effectively respond to challenges presented by climate change and globalization.

Grant recipients under all three programs will be required to match the funding they receive dollar-for-dollar.

In announcing these programs, Mr. Burke indicated that the Government recognized the role of the food and seafood industries in the nation's economy and in rural and regional communities and the need to maintain a competitive edge for the Australian food production

sector by boosting productivity right along the production chain and value-adding to capitalize on new markets.

"Better marketing and promotion will also help our high-quality food commodities compete with imported produce," Mr. Burke said.

Mr. Burke also said that the global food crisis meant demand would continue to grow for Australian food. Around two-thirds of Australian food commodities are exported, worth more than A\$23 billion in 2006-07.

"Australia can play a major role in helping to address the global food crisis – which will help to feed hungry families and also deliver opportunities for our farmers," Mr. Burke said.

More information on these programs, can be found at: www.daff.gov.au/foodinnovation; www.daff.gov.au/ausproduce and www.daff.gov.au/ausproduceevents

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AS8059	Wine	12/08/08
AS8058	December Grain & Feed Update	12/03/08
AS8057	Cotton Quarterly Update	11/26/08
AS8056	Western Australia lifts ban on GM Cotton	11/25/08
AS8055	Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual	11/21/08
AS8053	Citrus Annual	11/14/08
AS8052	November Grain Lockup	11/03/08
AS8051	Final IRA for Chicken Meat released by Biosecurity Australia	10/31/08
AS8049	Dairy Annual 2008	10/20/08
AS8048	Grain and Feed October Update 2008	09/26/08
AS8047	Sugar Semi-Annual	09/26/08
AS8046	Exporter Guide	09/15/08
AS8044	FAIRS Export Certificate Report	09/04/08
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AS8030	Grain and Feed Situation Update	06/13/08
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